

## **Categorical Exclusion Documentation**

Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

### **A. Background**

*BLM Office: Border Field Office*

*Lease/Serial/Case File No.: n/a*

*NEPA Log Number: OR135-08-CX-021*

*Proposed Action Title: Washington Ground Squirrel Augmentation*

*Location of Proposed Action: Three Creeks and Lakeview*

*Description of Proposed Action:* The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will trap approximately 400 Washington ground squirrels (State Candidate, BLM Sensitive) from the Sage Hills Golf Course, near Moses Coulee, WA where they are a nuisance. The majority of these will be relocated to the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. However, approximately 40-50 ground squirrels will be relocated to BLM lands in portions of the Three Creeks Grazing Allotment and Lakeview Recreation Area where existing populations of Washington ground squirrels occur (see map). The ground squirrels will receive ear tags, and WDFW will monitor the released squirrels by trapping them at the release sites 1 year after the release. Trapping on BLM land will be conducted with baited small mammal traps placed on top of the ground. No ground disturbing activities or off-road driving will occur. The WDFW will submit a report to the BLM detailing the locations and how many ground squirrels were released by October 1, 2008 and will provide an additional report detailing the monitoring results by October 1, 2009.

### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

☐ *Option 1 (conforms with LUP):* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

OR

☒ *(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP)* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*): Wildlife reintroductions and fish stocking proposals will be evaluated, and recommendations will be made to the WDFG (Spokane District Management Plan, 1987, pg 20).

### **C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 A. (5)

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply, as shown in the following table:

<b>CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION</b> The proposed categorical exclusion action will:		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.7	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.8	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### **F: Signature**

\_\_\_/S/ James Scott Pavey\_\_\_\_\_ 05/12/08\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Authorizing Official Signature) (Date)

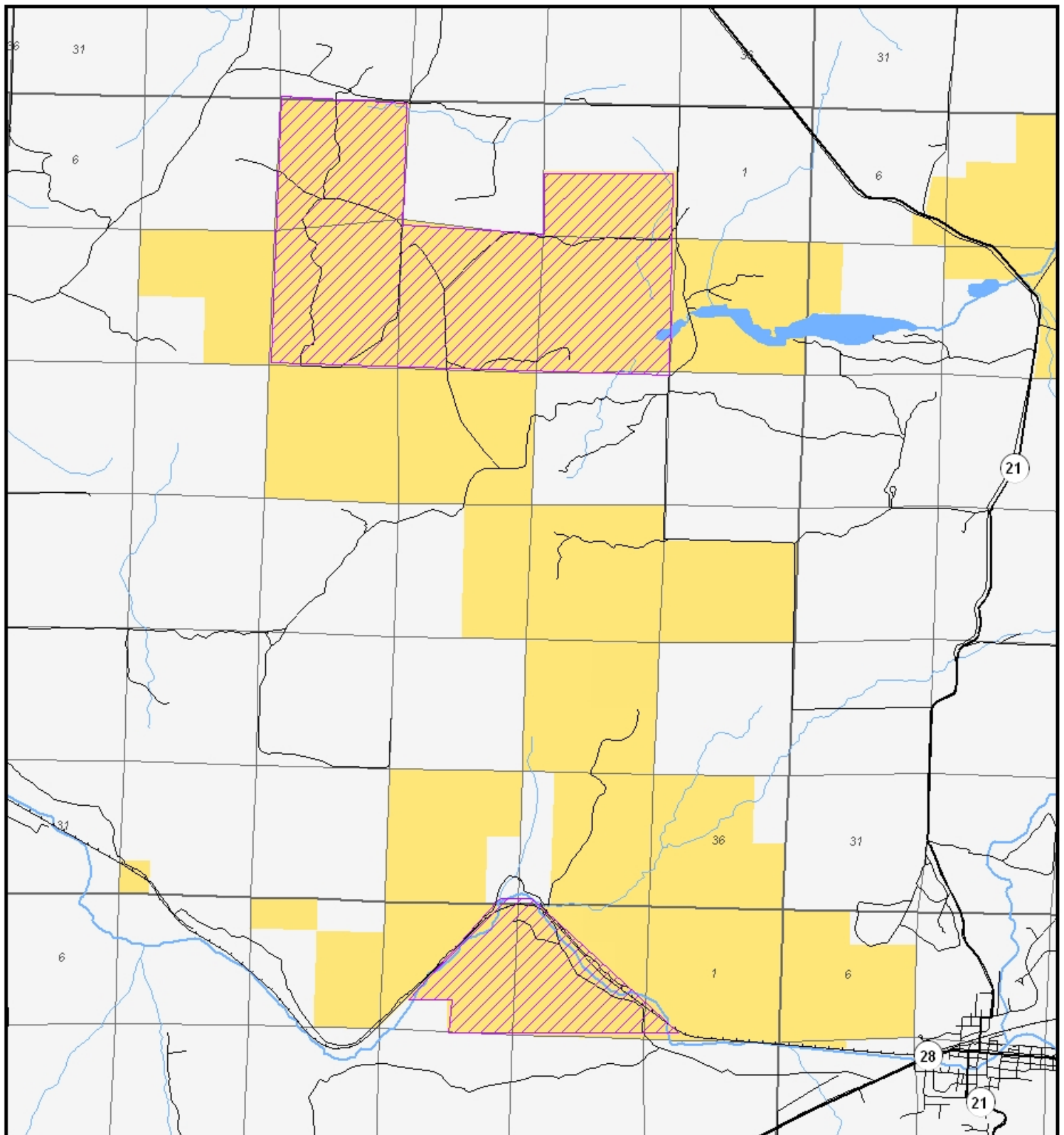
Name: Scott Pavey  
 Title: Field Manager

#### **G. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Jason Lowe

**Note:** A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

# Washington Ground Squirrel Augmentation Areas



- BLM Administered Land
- WDA Department of Natural Resources
- WDA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Private Land
- Project Area

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